

Health and Immunization Requirements

Revised February 2024

As a prerequisite for enrollment and/or participation in clinical rotations, Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy students are required to receive appropriate immunizations and/or testing for protection against exposure to certain infectious diseases.

I. Enrollment Requirements

Compliance with the following immunization standards is required prior to your initial enrollment as a pharmacy student. **These requirements must be met no later than June 5 before initial enrollment, unless otherwise stated.**

A. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

Proof of immunity to measles (rubeola), mumps and rubella is required of all students. The first dose must have been given on or after the first birthday. MMR vaccinations must be given at least 30 days apart.

Proof of immunity may be met by **one** of the following:

- i. Documentation of two MMR's after one year of age; or
- ii. Documentation of positive rubeola (measles), mumps and rubella titers.

B. Hepatitis B (2-part requirement)

Proof of immunity against hepatitis B is required of all students. Students are required to

- (1) complete the vaccination series which consists of **three injections (2-injections if Heplisav)** given at recommended intervals; *and*
- (2) obtain a blood serum **titer test (quantitative hepatitis B surface antibody)** that demonstrates the student has developed an adequate level of antibody protection to indicate immunity.

If you have already received the three-shot (2-shots if Heplisav) series as a child or adult, please submit that documentation PLUS titer result by the June 5 deadline. Otherwise, please follow this timeline to complete the requirement, but keeping in mind that the titer should be received 1-2 months after completing the series of injections:

- The first shot should be administered by **May 1** prior to beginning the PharmD program.
- The second shot should be administered by **June 1** prior to beginning the PharmD program.
- The third shot (non-Heplisav) should be administered by **November 1** of the year you begin the PharmD program.
- The titer test should be administered by **December 15** of the calendar year you begin the PharmD program. **(The titer should be received 1-2 months after completing the series of injections.)**

If the hepatitis B titer is negative following completion of the initial series of injections, the student will be required to repeat the series.

C. TDAP Booster Vaccine

A current TDAP booster is required for all students. Students must provide documentation of receipt of a booster vaccine within 10 years of their expected graduation date (e.g., for Class of 2028, the booster should have been received since 2018). Effective October 2005, the CDC recommends administration of the TDAP in place of Td to promote protection against pertussis.

D. Varicella Immunity

Students must demonstrate immunity to varicella (chickenpox). Please note: **Documented history of the disease is not sufficient proof of immunity.**

Proof of immunity may be met **only** by one of the following:

- i. Documentation of receipt of the varicella **2-shot** vaccination series; *or*
- ii. Documentation of a blood serum **titer indicating immunity (IgG)** test result within range of immunity).

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E. Tuberculin (TB) Testing

Documentation of testing **in the year 2024** - with results - for tuberculosis is required of all students. **Annual TB testing is required** while the student remains enrolled. If a student receives a positive test or has a history of testing positive, he or she will be required to provide documentation of a chest x-ray and the results thereof, including recommendations regarding any therapy.

F. Health insurance coverage

The East Tennessee State University Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy requires all students to carry and maintain health insurance while enrolled in the PharmD program. Students must provide proof of insurance through a provider, by uploading to CORE ELMS (instructions are linked below in section III-B).

If your coverage has lapsed or you have lost coverage due to a life-event, there are several avenues you can explore to secure coverage. Please contact the Office of Student Affairs if you need more information.

II. Immunization Recommendations and General Information

- A.** An annual **influenza vaccination** is recommended for all students and is required for participation in certain pharmacy practice experiences. You will receive more information during the fall semester. There is no need to receive a flu shot before the start of the academic year or until further notice.
- B.** The **COVID-19 vaccine** is not a requirement for enrollment. However, we request that you upload documentation if/when you receive it, as some practice sites may require it for certain pharmacy experiences.
- C.** While the immunizations referenced in part I of this document are the only immunizations required for enrollment at the College of Pharmacy, some practice sites may have additional requirements – including immunization - for certain pharmacy experiences (e.g., Covid vaccine, additional background checks, urine drug screenings, etc.) which will be the responsibility of the student in order to participate in that experience.
- D.** **ETSU Student Health Services:** Immunizations, titers, and TB testing are available for incoming and enrolled pharmacy students through ETSU Student Health Services. To schedule an appointment or to obtain more information including hours of operation and prices of immunizations and titers, students may contact the ETSU Student Health Services at (423) 439-4225.

III. Submission of Documentation & Acceptable Documentation

- A.** All medical documentation submitted to our office must include **the date of each immunization and/or titer** as well as **the results of the titer or test**. Acceptable documentation consists of one of the following:
 - 1. Written statement from a **health care provider** (only when verifying the date of immunization or titer result);
or
 - 2. Copy of **official immunization record** (may be obtained from county health department, school district, pediatrician/physician's office, etc.);
or
 - 3. Copy of **laboratory reports**.
- B.** Documentation must be received by the Office of Student Affairs no later than **June 5 prior to initial enrollment** (or, in the case of hepatitis B, by the deadlines outlined in section I.-B.)

Upload documents to: [CORE ELMS \(click for instructions\)](#)

Questions or Concerns?

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